

# Lithuania Makes Plans To Circumvent Embargo

## Republic Seeks Trade With Soviet Cities

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Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, April 25—The Lithuanian government announced today that it will try to circumvent a partial economic embargo imposed by the Kremlin by seeking direct trading links with individual Soviet cities.

Speaking on Radio Vilnius, Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene said that contacts were being established with the city councils in Moscow, Leningrad and Lvov, all of which are now controlled by radical political groups. She said that Lithuania could offer them milk and meat—which are in short supply in many big cities—in exchange for raw materials.

According to a Lithuanian legislator now visiting the United States, such barter arrangements already exist. Jonas Macys, an agronomist who represents the rural Kybartai district, said Lithua-

nians have been trucking food to an automobile factory in the Urals and a tractor plant in Minsk in exchange for spare parts, and to lumber mills in Siberia in exchange for wood needed by Lithuanian furniture factories.

[Under another barter deal described by Macys, Lithuanian truck convoys bring newsprint from the Komi region of northern Russia and return with Komi newspapers, printed in Lithuania. Macys, interviewed last week during a visit to Washington, said the Lithuanian truckers travel in convoys for protection against hijackers.]

Last week, the Soviet government shut off supplies of oil and severely cut back deliveries of natural gas in an attempt to force Lithuania to revoke legislation passed to implement its March 11 declaration of independence. Lithuanian officials predicted that as many as 35,000 workers may be laid off by the end of this week because of the Kremlin's sanctions.



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Lithuanian Premier Prunskiene addresses legislature after Scandinavian tour.

Soviet officials have denied that they are trying to bring the rebel republic to its knees, saying that Lithuania is merely being deprived of the advantage of subsidized raw materials sold in the Soviet Union for a fraction of the world price. It remains to be seen, however, how Moscow would react if attempts were to be made to pierce the tightening economic noose.

The Kremlin has refused to open negotiations with Lithuania until it cancels, or at least freezes, legislation designed to bolster its independence. A senior Gorbachev adviser, Yevgeny Primakov, said to-

day that it is up to Lithuanian leaders to come up with a formula for "saving face," adding that Moscow was holding out for a "civilized divorce."

Soviet government news media have reacted with barely disguised glee to the decision by the Bush administration to take no immediate action in response to the economic squeeze on Lithuania. Soviet television combined pictures of Bush joking with his advisers and reports of U.S. opinion polls suggesting that most Americans do not want the Lithuanian crisis to jeopardize good relations with Moscow.